

WEATHER FORECAST.
Rain to-day; to-morrow fair; moderate
south to west winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 70; lowest, 56.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXVI.—NO. 18.

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

AMERICANS GAIN 5 MILES ON 35 MILE FRONT; ST. MIHIEL SALIENT CRUMBLING; 12,000 TAKEN; BRITISH WIN MORE TOWNS AND NEAR CAMBRAI

13,000,000 JOIN NATION'S ARMY OF CONQUERORS

Great Enthusiasm Marks
Perfect Working of Vast
Enrolment Machinery.
NOT A JAR ANYWHERE
Gen. Crowder Gets Reports
Indicating Estimates
Will Be Exceeded.
NEW DEFERMENT RULING
Non-Priority and Non-Productive
Industries Declared Not
to Be Synonymous.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—Americans to the number of nearly 13,000,000 answered the call of the nation to-day to aid in the creation of the unconquerable force, "force without limit," to use the President's words, which within the ensuing twelve months will send Prussianism to its last account.
In every city, town and village, in every mining and lumber camp, dairy, cattle range and farm, from one end of the land to the other, Americans ranging in age from the beardless youngsters of 18 to the near granddaddies of 45 solemnly registered their names on the roll of available for the final smashing blow against the Kaiser.
At the offices of the Provost Marshal General, where all the vast plan of registering the millions of citizens had been formed, where the whole scheme had been shaped and in which the wire of manipulation by means of which the vast enterprise, the most gigantic census of manhood ever gathered in a single day, there was no more excitement than if the whole limit of the programme was the conduct of a primary election for sheriff in America's smallest county.

Not a Jar in the Mechanism.
Excitement, there was none. The mechanism did not rattle; the bearings did not squeak. It was as though under the guiding hand of Major-General Crowder the whole system lubricated by a nicely had been running on for months.
Even before the amendment to the selective draft law under which men between the ages of 18 and 21, and between 21 and 45 were ordered to register, the Provost Marshal General told the Provost Marshal General to-day's stirring event. The organization used in the great first draft of June 5, 1917, was employed throughout the nation, the election machinery and the educational system furnishing the clerical force and the locations for the thousands of draft offices.
Only meagre reports of the results through the country were received at the office of the Provost Marshal General to-night. These are being collated State by State. They will appear when the final returns have been sent to the Provost Marshal General's office within the ensuing three or four days.
Word was received from New York that the registration in the metropolis was running heavier than anticipated. This, it was said, however, was natural. The estimates, it is expected, will be exceeded in the great industrial centres of the East, the North and the Northwest. It is thought that a diminution will be discovered in the sections of the South and West where the crops already have been harvested and the hands have returned to the centres of industry. The result, however, is expected to be the same.

Effect of Priority Grouping.
Gen. Crowder took occasion to explain to-day for the benefit of men engaged in the so-called "non-productive" industries certain misapprehensions as to the scope of this classification. Recently the War Department authorized the publication of a list of essential industries numbering seventy groups and classified as priority industries. The impression had gone abroad that all industries not in the priority group must therefore be classed as non-productive. This misunderstanding Gen. Crowder endeavored to set aside by the following explanation:
"The War Industrial Board is charged with determining the principles upon which fuel, power, transportation, materials, capital and labor ought to be allocated to the several industries most essential to the war programme. An industry omitted from that list is therefore in the position of not being entitled to a priority privilege. The relation of that list to the selective service system is that an industry included in it is thereby recommended to the district boards as being a 'necessary' industry; and the district boards may take advantage of that recommendation in determining whether an indispensable man in such an industry should be placed in a deferred class on that ground."
"But there are of course many scores, perhaps hundreds, of industries not so essential."

Discreet Men to Make Future Slacker Raids

Special Despatch to THE SUN.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—To meet the tremendous extra burden in enforcement of the selective service law entailed by to-day's registration the Department of Justice is to increase the force in the bureau of investigations to round up slackers.
The investigation force will be sufficient to insure that in future raids the power of arrest will not be exercised except by duly authorized officers who have the proper training and discretion in such matters.
The department is preparing with the aid of the military and other authorities to check up every evasive of the draft law, wilful or otherwise, and the enlarged organization will be spread across the country, even to the small towns and rural districts.

GREAT TURNOUT HERE TO ENROLL

New Yorkers in All Walks of
Life Eager to Enter Names
in Patriots' Registry.

TOTAL IS ABOUT 800,000
One-fifth in the 18-20 Class
and Two-fifths in the 32-37 Grouping.

The number of men who registered yesterday in this city under the provisions of the 18 to 45 draft law was estimated last night at 800,000.
The estimate was made by Martin Conboy, director of the draft for New York, before all the figures were fully in, and was based on previous registration figures under the first draft law and on yesterday's registration in districts from which complete figures were available. Mr. Conboy said:
"The registration of 800,000 men in this city has been accomplished. The number should be a source of undying pride to the people of New York and of undying credit to the men of our city who are already in France. The news will be received joyfully in Washington, London, Paris and Rome and despairingly in Berlin."
"With the registration of this day and previous registration days we shall have in our classification, in this city, the names of more than 1,400,000 men of military age. This figure is exclusive of the thousands of men who have already been inducted into the military service, and exclusive of course of those who enlisted without waiting to be called to the colors."

Tremendous Task Performed.
"The work of registration has been a tremendous task for the more than 15,000 volunteers who have devoted the day to it and without whose assistance this office would have been swamped. They have given their time in untiring measure, and their devotion to duty is another evidence of the patriotic zeal and devotion which are characteristic of the nation."
"On the whole, the day's work has been good. The national estimate for New York city has been realized. The work that this day has been begun with so great an impetus will go forward to its completion with the whole strength and resources of the nation behind it."
"It seems appropriate at this time to say a word regarding the recent slacker raid in this city. Figures which have been given seem to have created an impression that the great many men of draft age in New York had succeeded in evading their military obligation, but the facts are directly otherwise. There is not a community in the country that is so free from slackers and deserters as New York city."

At 1 o'clock this morning the police estimated the total registration in the greater city at 769,554, while draft officials who before registration had placed the probable figure at 767,000 said the indications pointed to a total of 5,000 more than that.
The police estimate by boroughs was as follows:
Manhattan, 338,467; Brooklyn, 251,737; Bronx, 95,083; Queens, 57,814; Richmond, 14,152, making a total of 757,253. About 12,500 registrations were acknowledged in the offices of the director of the draft yesterday, bringing the total up to 769,554.
The returns from about half the district boards of the city showed an enormous registration, and that of the men who registered the number of males was comparatively small for a city of so cosmopolitan a character as New York.
It appeared that about one-fifth of the registrants were of the younger men between 18 and 21, and that two-fifths more were of men between the ages of 22 and 37.

In Line Before Boards Open.
Evidence of the spirit in which New York is prepared to submit itself to the new draft provisions was forthcoming.

FOCH REPEATS HIS TACTICS IN NEW OFFENSIVE

Shifts Scene of Major Operations When Other
Drive Lags.
SALIENT IS IMPORTANT
American Attack First Serious
Allied Blow on Eastern
Flank.

By H. SIDENBATH.
One of the Foremost Military Critics of Europe.

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LONDON, Sept. 12.—In beginning a new offensive just when the old ones threatened to become sterile of immediate result—although one or two useful advances are reported to-day—Marshal Foch has followed his established practice. He has illustrated over and over again in the course of his operations since July 18 that he is not a man to go on hammering until he splits the board, for the first principle of his strategy is surprise, or at any rate constant change.
Surprise in the strict sense does not seem to have been achieved in his new offensive, for there were many hints of the direction of the coming attack, and the Germans have shown by their raids, which were heavy handed reconnaissance, that they were extremely apprehensive of a new move on the eastern French front.

For that reason also, because the positions to be attacked had remained almost unchanged since 1914 and therefore presumably were of exceptional strength, the preliminary bombardment was longer than is usual of late, lasting four hours. None the less the attack made rapid progress and the results promise to be exceedingly satisfactory.
The Germans always have attached great importance to their positions in the West, particularly to the possession of the salient of St. Mihiel. In the original plan for the attack against France there was to have been a double encircling movement, through Belgium and Lille on one flank and through Nancy and across the French fortifications along the heights of the Meuse on the other flank.

This movement on the eastern flank miscarried and the military success won by the enemy was St. Mihiel, which commands one line of invasion across the Meuse heights from Metz as Verdun commands the other. One of the best things the Germans have done has been their rapid consolidation of this bridgehead into France across the plain of Woëvre. This is a railway communication across the plain as far as Thiaucourt. From that point to St. Mihiel is a broken country, where the heights of the Meuse sink down amid marshes and woods with isolated hills to the level of the plains.

Railways Built Swiftly.
As far as Thiaucourt the line of the railway follows the line of the Rupt de Mad, which is what we call a donga, a ravine sunk in the level plain which carries off the water. From Thiaucourt westward to St. Mihiel communications had to be made, and the rapidly with which the Germans carried light railways to St. Mihiel is remarkable.
This St. Mihiel salient was quite the sharpest on the whole battle front, but thanks to the protection of woods and marshes our Allies never made any serious impression upon it. The French and Americans to-day made the first serious attack. They approached from the south on a front of eight miles where the protection of the forest is less thick, and from the west from the heights of the Meuse from Epargues downward.
Half way between the limit of the advances from the south and west is Hattonchattel and the gap left between the pincers at most is ten miles. This leaves in, if the advance can be maintained, an excellent chance of intercepting the retreat of the garrison at St. Mihiel and taking a considerable number of prisoners.

Object Not Yet Revealed.
It remains to be seen whether the object of this new offensive is simply the closing of a door half open into France at St. Mihiel and the capture of a number of prisoners, with the biting off of an offensive salient, or whether this is part of a larger plan not yet revealed.
As the German advance into France was a crescent shaped, with one horn transfixing Lille and the other meant to transfix Nancy, so Marshal Foch may be grasping these horns in the hope of twisting the invader back the way that he came.
If there is any idea of an advance northward from Verdun it would be highly desirable to get rid of the St. Mihiel salient, widening the base for a northward thrust. Similarly, if there is any idea of an invasion of Lorraine over the Vosges mountains, further to the south, the suppression of this salient would be no less useful.

Operation Is Still in Progress, Gen. Pershing Tells Washington

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—Gen. Pershing in his statement on to-day's operations in the St. Mihiel sector, as received by the War Department to-night, reports 8,000 prisoners already counted by the American forces and says that the offensive movement is being continued. The statement follows:
Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces, September 12, 1918.
Section A.—This morning, our troops operating in the St. Mihiel sector, made considerable gains. Assisted by French units they broke the enemy's resistance and advanced at some points to a depth of five miles. We have counted 8,000 prisoners up to the present. The operation is still in progress.

LONDON, Sept. 12.—The French and German communications on the new offensive launched by the Americans and French in Lorraine to-day follow:
FRENCH.—The American Army attacked this morning in the region of St. Mihiel, the operations developing under the best of conditions.
GERMAN.—Between the Meuse and the Moselle the French and Americans attacked at the St. Mihiel bend. The fighting continues.

GERMAN MINES ONE OBJECTIVE

London Critics Eagerly Watch
Movement Toward Metz
Stronghold.

EXPECT FIGHT AT VERDUN
Enemy Has Powerful Defences
Prepared to Protect His
Frontier.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
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LONDON, Sept. 12.—News of the Franco-American offensive on both sides of the St. Mihiel salient, which reached London this afternoon, was received with the greatest enthusiasm. For some weeks the British military commentators, as well as the French critics, have been pointing out that Marshal Foch's policy of not giving the Germans an opportunity to catch their breath had indicated the probability of an attack being made by the American army east of Verdun.
For obvious reasons no attempt was made to predict the sector on which the blow would take place, but the probability that it would be launched where the blow actually was delivered to-day had been seriously discussed.
The strategic importance of Marshal Foch's blow toward Metz, the great German stronghold on this front, is to be seen in the preparations which the Germans have made in the possibility of being compelled to give up what is known as the Hindenburg line before they have reached their Wotan, Siegfried and Albrecht lines. The Germans have constructed lines further back, spread out fanwise from the base situated between Verdun and Metz, but of which Metz is the supporting pivot.

There seem to be two main reasons for this arrangement. In the first place the Germans undoubtedly consider that while they can afford to give up ground in northern France and Belgium they cannot fall back along the front in the east, along the Moselle, without recrossing their frontier. In the second place Germany cannot afford to let the allied forces advance from Verdun across the Woëvre plain too close to the Briey-Louvrois district and the Metz-Luxemburg line without endangering the main source of her own supplies in the mining district of the French and German fortifications.
It also is pointed out that the entire line of the German defence from Rheims to Cambrai would be in danger by a turning movement between Verdun and Metz, as all these lines have their eastern pivot in this region.

FORCE CAPTIVES TO BUILD DEFENCES

German Prepare to Flood the
Aisne Valley.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the
London Times Service.

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AMSTERDAM, Sept. 12.—Deported Belgians and prisoners of war in Germany have been sent to the battle front to construct fortifications. The Telegram learns from the Belgian frontier. Prisoners in the camps at Holzminnen and Havelberg have been ordered to go to Baccant, south of Maubeuge. There they were assigned according to their professions and their ability and distributed to the various services.
A large group has been sent to the Aisne Valley, to Hanzy, Avesnes, Neufchâteau and other places north of Rheims, where roads and railroads are being built, for which enormous quantities of stone, gravel, sand and rails have been sent in.
Everything is ready to flood the Aisne valley north and east of Rheims at Chateau Porcien, Gomont and Belham if the need arises. By means of wood trestle dams have been put in, leaving only a narrow channel, which can be closed at any time. Special bridges have been constructed. In the hills near Avesnes and Belham strong fortifications have been built.

TANKS CRUSH GERMAN LINE

Machine Gun Opposition to
Advance of Americans
Soon Smothered.

ONLY ONE IS DISABLED
Enemy Is Expected to Make
His Main Stand at Second
Defences.

By HERBERT BAILEY.
Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the
London Times Service.

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WITH THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY, Sept. 12.—Rain was falling slightly but persistently and the blackest of nights swathed the cobble streets and gray stone buildings of a famous Lorraine town near the front, but scarcely a sound was heard and not a ray of light showed when from some invisible church tower a great bell rang out in one portentous stroke.
In an instant the quiet and peace were shattered by a tremendous crash and a great flare of light. To the north there came more crashes and more flashes of light until the whole horizon was a mass of sound and glare. It was 1 o'clock, the morning of September 12, and the beginning of the great American offensive in Lorraine, the end of which no man can foresee.
A thousand cannon speak.
A thousand cannon massed on the American front between France, southeast of Verdun, and the Moselle River were sending to the enemy the first terrible heralds of what was to come for four hours. Down the street there was the sound of wheels and of horses' hoofs and then the feet of marching men. Twelve columns passed and a voice called through the rain, "Forward!" Those men were following up the messages from the cannon in the first big attack by the American First Army on the soil of Europe.
The infantry attack began at 5 o'clock this morning, when, under the personal command of Gen. Pershing and in the presence of Secretary of War Baker, American troops leaped from their trenches and rushed toward the German lines in a series of Franco-American coordinated attacks involving the entire St. Mihiel salient from Les Epargues, south of Verdun, to Feyzin, west of Pont-a-Mousson, a front all told of thirty-five miles.
With them at some places went old friends, veteran French troops fighting now as part of the American First Army under Gen. Pershing's command. They were followed in some places by fleets of tanks, while overhead hummed big flocks of airplanes, many of which were American, some of them equipped with Liberty motors. Behind the infantry great guns continued to roar, some of which were American made guns.

Is an All American Attack.
In short, through the valuable help rendered by the Allies, this is an all American attack. It is planned and controlled by American staff officers, and the American troops participating represent every part of every State in the Union and every element of the great American army, from the veterans who have been tried in the fire to the men who have known only the quiet sectors.
Never did infantry have better protection in the attack, for the greatest concentration of aircraft the west front has ever seen was accomplished here, and the number of cannon stupers the imagination; it equals the greatest aggregation employed in some of the greatest French attacks.
At this moment all the particulars of the attack cannot be given, but it can be said that while the entire St. Mihiel salient is being attacked.

Continued on Second Page.

SUDDEN CRASH IN NIGHT TELLS DRIVE IS BEGUN

Whole Horizon Ablaze With
Bombardment as Great
as War Has Known.
ALL U. S. BRANCHES ACT
American Infantry, Artillery
and Airplanes Used in
Lorraine Attack.

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Fund Gifts Touch Soldiers' Hearts

"RECEIVED your most welcome and wonderful gift of tobacco and wish to thank you a million times for your thoughtfulness of us boys Over Here. Tobacco is one of our great needs and in our position it is very, very hard to get. It touches the heart of every soldier to know that the people of the U. S. A. are still thinking of them. Thank you again."
So writes Joseph Palladio, Battery A, Fourteenth Field Artillery, to a SUN Tobacco Fund contributor.
WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors. See page 6.

First Army, Aided by French, Falls on Enemy From the Meuse to the Moselle.

TEN VILLAGES, 1,500 MEN TAKEN;
ST. MIHIEL WON; ENEMY FLEES

Five Hour Bombardment by 1,000 Guns Opens
Battle—Germans, Unable to Make Stand,
Falling Back Toward Metz.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.
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PARIS, Sept. 12.—Driving forward over a front of thirty-five miles, from southeast of Verdun to west of Pont-a-Mousson, the American First Army in two great bodies, with French troops in the centre, launched the great offensive which many military critics believe is destined to break the power of the Germans in France, probably in Belgium also, and may have even greater and more far reaching consequences. The entire operation is under the personal direction of Gen. Pershing and for the first time an all American battle has been begun.

According to the latest information here while the Americans attacked on an eight mile front extending from Fresnes southward along the western side of the heights of the Meuse, this movement was of but secondary importance to the principal attack which was delivered on the southern side of the salient, on a front of about twelve miles between St. Mihiel and Pont-a-Mousson. Here the American troops in the first few hours of fighting had advanced to a depth of nearly five miles, capturing the important town of Thiaucourt, the junction point where several light railways constructed by the Germans to feed the interior of the salient connect with the standard railroad from Metz.

HAIG'S TROOPS GAIN STEADILY

More Sections of Hindenburg
Line Captured in Drive
in Artois.

HAVRINCOURT IS TAKEN

French Continue Their Operation
for Possession of St.
Gobain Massif.

London, Sept. 12.—Although the great blow of Marshal Foch against the German defensive system in France as a whole was launched to-day by the American First Army in the St. Mihiel district, there was no lull in the operations on the front in Artois and Flanders. On the contrary both the British and the French made important gains and the drive there is developing in the best way that can be expected under the prevailing weather conditions.

In their drive around Cambrai toward the British captured Valenciennes and the village of Havrincourt. In an attack on the Canal du Nord, north of Havrincourt, the British took the village and a section of the old Hindenburg line between the village and the canal.
North of the Bapaume-Cambrai road they completed the capture of Mouvaux after a sharp fight. In these operations 1,000 prisoners were taken. In fighting last night Attily, Vermand and Vendelles were taken. In the north the British made further progress south of La Bassée, Canal and northwest of Arras.

Reports in regard to the French operations south of the British sector are delayed, but there is reason to believe that they also continued their progress in the process of encircling the St. Gobain massif, the impregnable German stronghold that guards Laon and the Chemin des Dames.
PERSHING ENLARGES STAFF.
Chief of Infantry and Chief of Cavalry Added.
By the Associated Press.
AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Sept. 12.—The offices of chief of the infantry and chief of cavalry of the American Expeditionary Force have just been established by Gen. Pershing. Both officers will be members of Gen. Pershing's staff.
Nominations for the two new positions have not yet been made.

THE NATIONAL CITY COMPANY
New Office—514 Fifth Avenue
Expert analysis of one's investments should be obtained occasionally as a matter of precaution. Our services are available without charge.—Ad.

Enemy Is in Hurried Flight.
The Germans are in hurried flight from the St. Mihiel pocket—they have learned to dread the salients of which formerly they were so proud, for they have learned that when Marshal Foch begins to drive in on the shoulders of a pocket and at the same time to put pressure on the point they are facing and very close to disaster.
In the present case it is difficult to see how the Germans can escape such a disaster, notwithstanding that they can guess pretty accurately what is happening to them. The terrible casualties which they have suffered in the last eight weeks in Plerdy and Artois had to be made up, and the only way to do it was to draw men from the quiet sectors. When this process had gone sufficiently far to weaken those sectors Marshal Foch decided that the proper moment for the great blow had arrived and to-day he struck.

Cooperation Is Complete.
All accounts agree that the artillery preparation simply overwhelmed the Germans in the advanced positions. The tanks, smoke screens and airplane squadrons flying low all cooperated with the greatest efficiency. There was no hint of any slip either in preparation or execution. The American losses have been extraordinarily small.

In front of the advancing troops were cavalry patrols, some of which are reported to have reached the outskirts of Vignoulles, in the middle of the chord of the salient and five miles beyond the furthest infantry advance. This report, if true, means that the Americans have smashed in completely the southern face of the salient and now are approaching its center.

Many roads feeding the front in the salient pass through Vignoulles and the Germans west and south of that place are in a trap from which they will have great difficulty in escaping, as their retreat is cut off while the French on the point of the salient and the Americans on the west and south are pressing them hard. At the point of the pocket the French are reported to have captured St. Mihiel, a danger point at the heart of France since the early days of the war.
A further advance by the Americans